

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKOA KALUHIWA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAIHOOLOE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

ref:OCCL:MC

Loko I'a HA-15-06

MEMORANDUM:

DEC 29 2015

To: DLNR

- ___ Land Division
- ___ Division of Aquatic Resources
- ___ Division of Forestry and Wildlife
- ___ Historic Preservation

- ___ Office of Hawaiian Affairs
- ___ Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo
- ___ Hawai'i Planning Department
- ___ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- ___ NOAA Fisheries, Pacific Islands
Regional Office
- ___ Department of Health, Environmental
Planning Office

FROM: Samuel J. Lemmo, Administrator
Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR COMMENTS
Pond Restoration

LOCATION: Kekaha Kai State Park, North Kona, Hawai'i

TMK: (3) 7-2-005:003 7-2-004:019

Please find Loko I'a Restoration Application HA-15-06 for proposed restoration work on three anchialine ponds at Kekaha State Park on the above subject parcels.

The largest pond is located just inside of the coastal dune. It was partially lined with rock walls and managed as a fishpond by indigenous Hawaiians, although it lacks some of the 'classic' loko i'a elements such as mākaha and 'auwai. A smaller pond is located 100 feet inland from the first, while a third lies in a different section of the park and is bounded by the sandy coast and a lava flow.

All three ponds were damaged during the 2011 tsunami, which deposited large amounts of sand in the ponds. In addition, the ecosystems have been degraded by invasive plants and predatory fish, as well as algae and bacteria build-up.

The restoration work will involve completing a baseline survey of the ponds by a Division of Aquatic Resources staff, removal of invasive fish from the pond using nets, the introduction of a

single pāpio (a younger ulua) into each pond as a predator of the invasive guppies, hand removal of invasive plants from the ponds, and the mechanical removal of sedimentation.

An excavator will be used to remove the large amount of sand that is covering the rock wall on the first pond; after this Park volunteers will remove the sand by hand and by using a trash pump.

Once the restoration work is completed the lands surrounding the ponds will be planted with native plant species. The ponds will be monitored to assess the return of 'ōpae'ula and other anchialine species.

No stocking or harvesting is currently planned.

We have included the application. We would appreciate any comments your agency or office has on the proposed project and its associated best management practices. The documents can also be found on our website at dlnr.hawaii.gov/occl/hoala-loko-ia.

Please let us know by Thursday January 14 if we should be expecting comments from your agency. Contact Michael Cain at 587-0048, should you have any questions on this matter.

☐ Comments Attached

☐ No Comments

Signature

Attachment: *Loko I'a application HA-15-06*